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OXC-6160-63

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5 DEC 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with DD/S, 2 December 1963, regarding Procurement Actions of the Office of Logistics with Reference to Project OXCART

1. Mr. John Blake, Executive Officer, DD/S&T, and I met with Col. White in the latter's office the afternoon of 2 December to discuss with him the current deplorable state of affairs with regard to two EAD/OSA contracts in support of project OXCART. These two items were as follows:

a. A contract with [] for certain services and modifications to Project [] aircraft, and

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b. A proposed contract with [] for a [] system in support of OXCART.

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2. I carried with me two documents the first of which was [] of 2 December referencing the [] funding problem and second, a draft document written by [] of EAD dated 29 November 1963 on the [] matter. Both of these constitute mute evidence of the current snag in Procurement Division activities on the OXCART project and I shall not go into them in detail in this document. We reminded Col. White that only recently the White House had assigned a DX priority to Project OXCART, placing it in the highest category of National projects and that while there are certain elements of OXCART which would and should be contracted for by the Office of Logistics in terms of our agreement with that Office, nevertheless failure on the part of O/L to conduct procurement activities with the same speed and streamline procedures of OSA soon results in these peripheral developments becoming pacing items for the entire program.

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3. Col. White read the two papers with evident interest after which we proposed to him that OSA draft a memorandum to the Director of the Office of Logistics through DD/S&T and DD/S with concurrence lines for both which would in effect point out the working inter-relationship between OXCART procurement as conducted by OSA and support procurement to OXCART as conducted by the Procurement Division, Office of Logistics. In this proposed draft [] would formally remind Mr. Garrison of the DX priority business

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and restate to him the Director's regular insistence on achieving an early operational readiness for OXCART. We will conclude by asking that in certain identifiable cases such as [redacted] that Procurement Division forgo some of the normal procedures employed in instances where time is not of the essence and expedite their procurement to the greatest degree possible. Col. White seemed to find no basic reason for challenging this paper and it was agreed we would bring it together as soon as we could. In the meantime he asked for specific contract numbers in the two critical cases so that he could pursue this on an investigative and remedial action basis without delay. [redacted] was advised of these developments and asked to furnish Col. White's office with the necessary background information on the two matters above.

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ILLEGIB

[redacted]
JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

DAD/OSA/JAC:mcm

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